

Message Text

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PAGE 01 HELSIN 01415 091333Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-20
TRSE-00 OMB-01 ACDA-12 IO-14 EB-08 NRC-07 OES-07
SOE-02 DOE-15 CEQ-01 COME-00 HA-05 BIB-01 /150 W
-----050543 091347Z /72

R 091242Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY HELSINKI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2700
INFO AMEMBASSY VIENNA

UNCLAS HELSINKI 1415

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PEPR, ENRG, FI, AU
SUBJ: CHANCELLOR KREISKY VISITS FINLAND

1. AUSTRIAN CHANCELLOR BRUNO KREISKY MADE AN OFFICIAL VISIT TO FINLAND MAY 3-5. HE MET WITH PRESIDENT KEKKONEN AND PRIME MINISTER SORSA AND LEADING FINNISH SOCIAL DEMOCRATS, GAVE A LECTURE AT THE PAASIKIVI FOREIGN POLICY SOCIETY ON "FUTURE VIEWS OF DETENTE POLICY", VISITED AN OIL REFINERY AND THE LOVIISA NUCLEAR POWER PLANT, AND SIGNED A BILATERAL AGREEMENT ON FINANCING OF CULTURAL EXCHANGES BETWEEN FINLAND AND AUSTRIA.

2. IN HIS DETENTE LECTURE, KREISKY STRESSED ECONOMIC COOPERATION BETWEEN EAST AND WEST AS ESSENTIAL FOR THE FUTURE DEVELOPMENT OF DETENTE, AND HE CALLED FOR DEVELOPMENT OF MUTUAL COOPERATION BETWEEN THE EEC, EFTA AND COMECON. HE ALSO ADDRESSED THE QUESTION OF THE CSCE, SAYING THAT THE LACK OF SUCCESS OF THE BELGRADE CONFERENCE WAS DUE TO ITS EXCESSIVE LENGTH AND ITS PREOCCUPATION WITH WORDS. HE CALLED FOR THE MADRID CONFERENCE TO BE HELD AT NO LESS THAN THE FOREIGN MINISTER LEVEL.
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3. THE PRIMARY SUBSTANTIVE INTEREST OF KREISKY'S VISIT WAS THE FINNISH NUCLEAR PROGRAM, ACCORDING TO THE MEDIA, WHICH REPORTED THAT HE CAME AWAY IMPRESSED WITH THE SECURITY MEASURES AT THE LOVIISA PLANT. HE WAS QUOTED AS SAYING THAT THE FINNS HAVE A MORE SENSIBLE ATTITUDE TOWARD NUCLEAR

ENERGY THAN THE AUSTRIANS HAVE.

4. KREISKY'S VISIT RECEIVED GOOD COVERAGE IN THE PRESS, WHICH NOTED THAT HE HAS MADE MANY TRIPS TO FINLAND, WHERE HE USED TO HAVE A SUMMER PLACE. THE ONLY CRITICAL NOTE WAS SOUNDED BY THE HARD-LINE COMMUNIST FACTION NEWSPAPER, WHICH TOOK EXCEPTION TO A COMMENT THE CHANCELLOR HAD MADE IN VIENNA BEFORE THE VISIT, WHEN HE REPORTEDLY TOLD FINNISH JOURNALISTS THAT AUSTRIA AND FINLAND HAVE SIMILAR ROLES AS NEUTRAL BUFFER STATES. AS USUAL, THE FINNISH FOREIGN MINISTRY DID NOT DEIGN TO REPLY TO THE PAPER'S CHARGE THAT THIS STATEMENT WAS INCONSISTENT WITH FINLAND'S FOREIGN POLICY LINE BASED ON ITS PACT OF FRIENDSHIP, COOPERATION AND MUTUAL ASSISTANCE WITH THE USSR.
RIDGWAY

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